GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2976
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010
PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT
Kataria Shri Lal Chand

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate body for procurement of medicines and other equipments for the Government health centres;

(b) if so, the stipulated period within which the said body is likely to be set up;

(c) the agencies through which the procurement of medicines is done presently;

(d) whether there are various lacunae in the present procurement system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) The Government proposes to set up a Central Procurement Agency (CPA) for the purpose of procuring, storing and distributing health sector goods.

(b) No timeframe has been fixed.

(c) Presently, externally funded Procurement is being done through RITES Ltd, a PSU under Ministry of Railways, Govt. of India. Domestic Funded Procurements are done by the Ministry.

(d) & (e) There are various difficulties being faced by the Ministry in procurement of drugs, medicines and equipments as given below:

(i) Lack of standardization of procurement Manuals, Bid Documents and Quality Assurance.

(ii) The present system is finding it difficult to monitor the availability and movement of drugs, vaccines and equipments etc.,